GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2580
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
CANCELLATION OF VISAS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Australia has either cancelled the visas of many Indian students or repatriated them from its country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Australia;

(d) if so, the reaction of Australia thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Australian Immigration authorities have deported 6000 foreign students between April 2001 to March 2002. Of these, about 800 were Indians.

(b) The cancellation of visas and deportations were due to violation of student visa regulations, which put a 20-hour weekly limit for off-campus work, or for overstaying their visas. These regulations apply to all overseas students and are not directed specifically at Indian students.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)&(e) The Australian authorities have conveyed their readiness to organize familiarisation camps for students regarding visa regulations.